April 3, 1997
FREE

THE SUN

Entertainment, Recreation, and News Weekly

This illustration was compiled from images collected by the artist, James Needham, during his experience.

By Elizabeth Cowley

What do you do when the self proclaimed 'tenant from hell' moves into your home? James Needham has been battling with that issue since June of 1996 when Sharon Garner moved into his guest house on Wawona Road in Carmel Valley. After a few months Sharon stopped paying rent, began damaging the property, filed complaints with the police, and demanded money to leave.

Needham was not unique, he found out too late that Garner had followed a similar pattern of victimizing landlords in semi-affluent areas at least 9, perhaps up to 30, times before in San Mateo County.

On Friday, March 28, Garner tried to file harassment charges against Needham. The judge disallowed the harassment charges but while she was in the neighborhood, Garner was taken to jail for not appearing on charges that she allegedly assaulted Needham in January, shortly after she was evicted.

Needham said Garner stopped paying rent and utilities in September, three months after she moved in. Garner then took to posting signs around the neighborhood claiming that Needham didn't provide her with hot water, electricity, and cable, and that he could expect "more damage" to his property. Needham said Garner threw rocks through the windows, put the stove in the yard, tore up the landscaping, and generally trashed the place.

"Her goal was to totally occupy my life," Needham said, adding that on several occasions Garner would state that she was "the tenant from hell" and was going to take his house from him. Garner accused Needham of torturing animals, spying on her, stealing from her, harassing her, and entering her home without permission. She would post notes alleging these actions around the neighborhood, write letters to Needham and the neighbors, and file complaints with the police. Needham said he wouldn't even know about the complaints Garner had filed until he read about it in the Sheriff's Log of *The Carmel Valley Sun*.

Needham said Garner requested in writing that he pay her $5,850 to leave and said that his life would not return to normal until he paid up. In addition to property damage, signs, and police complaints, as an added incentive to get Needham to pay, Garner wrote letters to the Internal Revenue Service, the Building Department, Pac-Bell, PG&E, Cal-Am and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. Garner would claim that Needham was

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Check out what's hot in Costa Rica - page 11.

This Week in

THE SUN

April 3, 1997

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THE SUN - Staff and Contributors

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LETTERS

Puppy Saved by Woman With Spring Scent

Dear Editor,

This is to express my deepest thanks and praise to an unknown young lady who braved Carmel Valley Road traffic today to save my puppy! After seeing my escaped puppy frantically trying to pass around the traffic and go home, she stopped and finally caught him and carefully brought him to Carmel Valley Veterinary Hospital. All I know about her is that she is kind, brave, and she used a lovely spring scent my "Al" (the puppy) later wore too! Whoever she is, I want her to know how grateful I am. Stay ever kind. God bless you!

Carol A. Chealander
Carmel Valley

Support New Moss Landing Labs

Dear Editor,

As President of San Jose State University, one of seven California State University campuses whose students are served by the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, I would like to add my voice to those who support the new facilities the lab hopes to build in Moss Landing.

Since October of 1989, when we lost our previous facilities to the Loma Prieta earthquake, Moss Landing Marine Labs has been serving our students from three sites scattered throughout Monterey County (two of these facilities are in Salinas, and miles from the ocean). The proposed building would reunite the facilities near our existing ship and small boat operations and give us the ability to better serve our students.

The new Moss Landing Marine Laboratories building has been designed to conform to the hillside of the proposed site and disturb lines of site as little as possible. The lab's presence on the proposed 21 acres above Moss Landing will also ensure the protection of Native American resources found on the site and will expand habitat for endangered species through the restoration of 17 acres of dunes. The new site will allow us to provide educational exhibits on local habitats, local history, and marine research for area school children, and will enhance public access to the campus and the wetlands.

Since our precious site was deemed unsafe after the earthquake (and parts of it turned over to the adjacent state beach), the new site above Moss Landing is the most logical choice for our new building. It will allow us to move forward with research vital to our understanding of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. It will also enable us to further develop collaborative efforts with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, which is also housed at Moss Landing. On behalf of the students Moss Landing Marine Laboratories serve, I ask you to support our plans for the future.

Robert L. Caret
President San Jose State University

NEWS BRIEFS

McGowan Named President of Women's Caucus

Carmel attorney Anne McGowan was recently elected president of the National Women's Political Caucus of the Monterey Bay.

Anne McGowan has practiced law in Monterey County since 1987. She is council to the Monterey Peninsula Parks District and, until 1992, was a professor at the Monterey College of Law. She is president of the California Women Lawyers Educational Foundation and a former member of the California State Bar Standing Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct. McGowan is also president of the Mid-Carmel Valley Fire Protection District and a Trustee of the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

McGowan has received several awards including the Purple Ribbon Award from Planned Parenthood in 1993, the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award from the Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women in 1992, the Woman of Distinction Award from Soroptomist International in 1992, and the Alumnae Association Law Service Award from Carlow College.

Women's History Poetry and Prose

Poets and short story writers read their works to an attentive audience at the 2nd Annual Evening of Poetry and Prose at Carmel Valley Community Chapel this March.

Among those reciting their work to a rapt audience were Allisan Baumann, Laura Bayless, Grace Darcy, Betty Garner, Rowaine Kram, Illia Thompson, Gracie Tunnell-Braun, and Margaret Van Daale.

Additionally, Rosemary Matson presented a retrospective on the work of the late and much loved May Sarton.

The program was sponsored by the Chapel's Women's Connection of the Carmel Valley Community Chapel.

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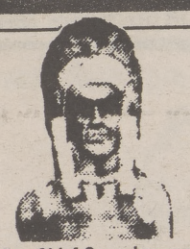

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THE TENANT FROM HELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wasting water, electricity, that there were gas leaks, and made assorted other claims to increase the pressure on Needham. Needham said "I would hear the water running all night in her place or I would see the oven door open and the oven glowing." Garner left with over $700 of unpaid electrical bills and Needham said these were "all acts of intimidation, she seeks to intimidate you into doing what she wants - which is to pay her off." Garner demanded that Needham provide her with bank statements, tax records, and telephone records. A private investigator found 20 other similar incidents involving Garner and her landlords. Most of these cases appear to have been settled out of court and the landlord opted to pay her rather than endure her antics.

In January Needham was looking at some of the signs Garner had posted in front of his house when Needham said "she lunged at me and hit me in the chest." A woman standing nearby just happened to have recorded the incident on tape and turned the evidence in to the District Attorney's office. Garner was supposed to answer assault and battery charges in February, but didn't show up. Garner did show up at court on Friday, March 27, to file harassment charges against Needham. Judge Hinrichs denied Garner's harassment charges and sent her to jail for failure to appear on the assault charges.

Between the time Garner was evicted in January and sent to jail in March, she was living in her car along Carmel Valley Road displaying signs saying that Needham made her homeless. Needham said he told Sharon Garner he wouldn't make her homeless, "now she has a place to stay - she is homeless no more."

"...all acts of intimidation, she seeks to intimidate you into doing what she wants - which is to pay her off."

Court records indicate that Garner has been evicted at least 9 times since 1992 from rented homes in San Mateo County. Garner's pattern appears to be that she will initially appear the perfect tenant but soon begins to claim that her landlord is harassing her and that there are problems with the property. When the landlord tries to evict her court records indicate that she becomes abusive, files claims of harassment and abuse with the police, causes damage to the property and demands to be paid-off to leave.

..her tactics have included accusing an elderly woman of torturing her cat.

Court records show her tactics have included accusing the Sheriff who tried to evict her of sexual harassment, accusing a 77 year old man who allowed her to stay in his home of beating her up, accusing an elderly woman of torturing her cat, writing lengthy letters to the IRS, and being verbally abusive to make it attractive for the landlord to pay her to leave.

Needham has become the poster boy for terrorized landlords and receives phone calls from around the county from people in similar situations. Needham said "I want to help - I know they are hurting emotionally." Needham's goal is to see that Garner doesn't do this to anyone else. Needham said the experience has "impacted both my life and my career." Neehham lost time from work and has spent tens of thousands of dollars on attorneys, private investigators, property repairs, and unpaid bills left by Garner.

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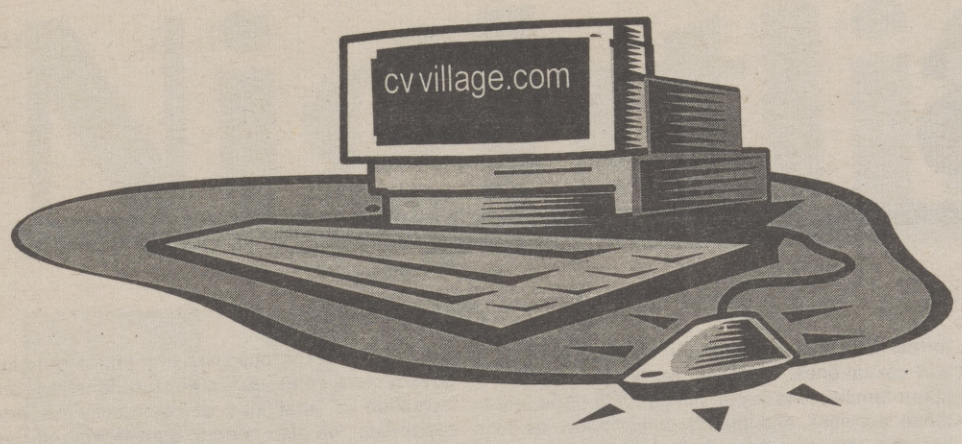


Everybody's Doing it: Carmel Valley Joins the Global Cyberspace Village

By Tracy James

Believe it or not Carmel Valley is now on the World Wide Web.
From Monterey to Montreal people can access information about Carmel Valley directly from the internet at http://www.cvvillage.com.

Gary Bryant, creator of the Village page, says he tried the idea of a local "home page" a year ago but the timing wasn't right. "Everyone thought I was crazy or just a computer nerd," he said. But today his critics would be impressed with the style and service of the Web Site.

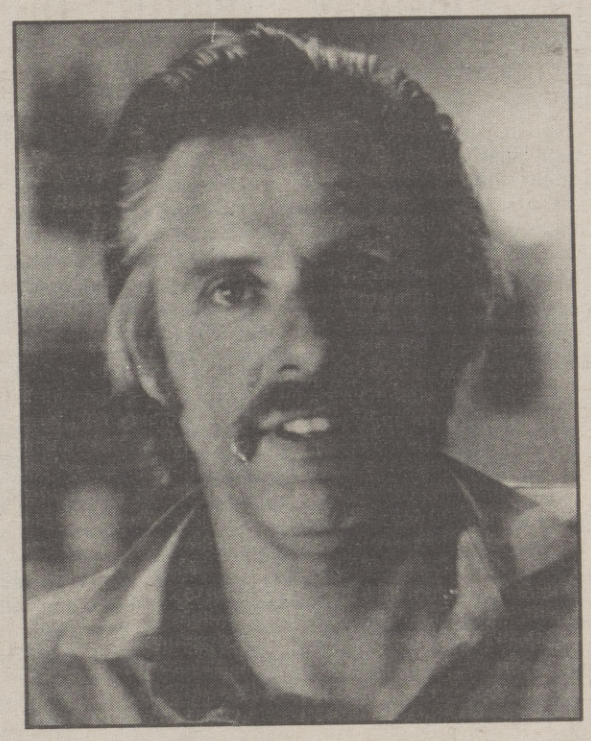
The page links to several different categories such as Village events, shops, lodges, and restaurants and is full of rich, colorful text and graphics. Users can click on a specific category and get information quickly: dates, times, locations and occasionally pictures. On the calendar section see events such as "California Trail Days" coming April 26 and 27 at Garland Ranch and the "Annual Carmel Valley Fiesta" scheduled the first weekend of August.

The site also features a local artist each month and offers a glimpse of their work. This month's featured artist is Carmel Valley sculptor Pamela Heneks. An entire page, with colorful pictures, is dedicated to her beautiful hand-made creations. Bryant says he has plenty of artists he would like to feature in future pages, but many times they do not have pictures of their artwork. "It's easy to scan in the pictures," he says. "I just need the material."

The site caters to a variety of interests. Tourists who are looking to visit Carmel Valley can find the Village site easily since the page links to city, travel and tourist related sites. If interested, prospective visitors can actually see pictures of hotel rooms, surrounding areas of Carmel Valley and local businesses.

If you can't decide where to eat in Carmel Valley, both locals and visitors can browse the restaurant section on the Village page. If you have a difficult time finding a specific entree, The Ridge Restaurant at Robles del Rio Lodge offers an on-line menu. Currently, all event listings and artist pages are free on the Web Site. Advertising costs start at $5.00 a month. For those who do not have an existing Web advertisement of their own, Bryant can help create a personal graphic advertisement suited for any business. For smaller businesses or specialty stores, Bryant suggests they sponsor a non-profit event or organization on the Village Web Site.

Bryant says he has always been interested in computers. "The internet just came naturally to me," he says. For the past seven years, Bryant has been repairing personal computers and troubleshooting software problems in Carmel Valley. His main focus now is working on the Village Web Site. For advertising information or to take advantage of the free listing of your event, organization or business you can reach Bryant on the Village page or by calling 659-5125.



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In the Valley - Garland Ranch Regional Park Visitor Center
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- Childrens Open Space Art 9am-4pm
- Native Plant Restoration - bring your gloves - 9am-1pm

Nature Walks

- Snively's Ridge - 9am-2pm *(strenuous)*
- Waterfall and the Mesa - 10am-12:30pm *(moderate)*
- Cooper and Lupine Loops - 11am-12pm *(easy)*
- Live Oak Mesa and Maple Canyon - 1:30pm-3pm *(moderate)*
- **Friends of the Regional Park District Potluck: 5-7pm**

Call 659-6062 for more information

On the Coast

Sand City Beach Clean-up- Meet at the end of Tioga Street at 9am
Ice Plant and Weed Pull - Meet at Seaside Beach at 10am
Snowy Plover Enclosure Construction- Meet at Seaside Beach at noon
Call 655-4488 for more information

Features

ARCHITECTURE & COMMUNITY

The Glass House

By Neal Owen Kruse

What does architecture say about your community?

Architecture and Community — what do they have to do with each other? A lot! Just as there is a strong and direct relationship between our living environments and our personalities and lifestyles, there is a similar relationship between the built environment of a town and the sense of community among those who live there. You cannot separate the people from the architecture. You cannot separate the architecture from the people. Both must be seen as a whole.

Yet, to really assess the architecture of our towns and villages and determine how, or if, it supports community, we need to know what kind of community we want it to support. Community is by nature complex and ever changing. It requires a lot of time, growth and experimentation to develop. There are, however, some very simple and very clear aspects to what makes a healthy community.

Recently *The Sun* held it's first get-together in the Village at the Plaza Linda Restaurant. Three people told me they thought get-togethers like this should be done on a regular basis. They really liked meeting with their friends and colleagues from the valley and catching up on things. I'm sure there are already places and times when this does occur in the Valley, but obviously there are people who feel a need for more of it.

One of the reasons we don't have more of this kind of casual meeting in our communities is that we do not value it. We think of the time we spend in coffeehouses "talking shop" with our friends or telling jokes as unproductive and maybe even a little lazy. Better we should spend that time working in the office. The same value system appears in the area of family. As parents, if we truly valued our time with our children and spouses, we would not allow our society to develop in a way that takes us increasingly away from them. We will never have any semblance of community if we can't get our families back together again. Here in America, we seem to put more emphasis on our work and our productivity than on our close relationships. In the process of trying to keep up with the Jones's and just plain pay the bills of child rearing, we are usually required to spend more and more time away from our children and friends.

Likewise, when it comes to our sense of values in local community life, we assign greater value to our civic, professional, and formal activities than to our social, personal, and casual ones. But what really matters, both in our families and in our villages and cities, are those activities and places which allow us to become very intimate and close to other human beings. What really makes community work, and what we like about it best, is the feeling of belonging and security it can give. At root, this belonging and security comes from living with other people in a way that makes us feel part of a larger, compassionate whole. And this requires that we spend time together as real people. It requires that we get to know each other as the ordinary but splendid people we are in everyday life. Only then do we begin to really care and love each other. So instead of just looking at the buildings that house our city governments and our civic functions as an indication of what kind of community we are supporting, we also need to start looking at the restaurants, coffee shops, town squares, and street corners where we all seem to gather on those lazy Sunday afternoons to tell stories and laugh together.

We need to look at how our villages and cities make room for the time and place we all need to just be who we really are and to find out that other people will love us for it.

Quote for the week: "The job of buildings is to improve human relations: architecture must ease them, not make them worse." **Ralph Erskine**

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YOUR FINANCES

Spare Change

By Barbra Alexander

What inflation?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems to me that watching the California economy grow over the past several years has been like watching turtle eggs hatch. So what is this inanity from the FED about runaway three percent inflation? O.K., maybe I've got it. Greenspan is getting married next week, so perhaps the fear is hormonal.

My own abiding fear is that most people don't know what inflation is and by extension, they don't comprehend how we got here. Let's take a moment to define economic cause and effect. Inflation is the increased cost of goods and services. All goods and services are taken into consideration which is why we, the paying public, often get a skewed perception of the term.

If Mr. Greenspan is looking to fix true runaway inflation, I'd like to suggest that he get himself appointed as Ambassador to a South American country.

You see, the construction, dairy, automotive, computer, aircraft, peanut, and balloon industries all boil in the same pot. If you're suddenly faced with higher prices at the grocery store, and you don't know about the growing unrest of labor in the aircraft industry, you might think there is no reason for the price of milk to be higher. You might think the dairy farmers are just being greedy. Although this may be, it's not necessarily true, nor is it the cause of inflated milk prices.

Then there is the value of money. We hear a great deal about the value of the dollar against the Yen and Deutschmark because currently they're the ones that count. I suppose we're all waiting for the Ruble to get a grip on the international "get em while they're hot" monetary scene.

But what of the dollar at home? Could it be that the short sighted view of the fix it quick before voters get the idea we can't handle money crowd continues to plunge us into the economic abyss? It's never a good idea to print more money just to create the illusion of economic wellness. Money that has no backing does nothing to fuel the economy.

Even with the combined factors mentioned, we still only have an inflation factor of THREE PERCENT, hardly a lofty number. But the fallout is already happening in the stock market which lost a hundred points trying to figure out what the mortgage rates are going to do. The mortgage rates started going up three weeks ago in fear of the anticipated FED action. They haven't stopped yet, and nobody can figure out why because the market has already made its adjustment. Now I ask you, is this a responsible act by such an august body?

If Mr. Greenspan is looking to fix true runaway inflation, I'd like to suggest that he get himself appointed as Ambassador to a South American country. Brazil comes to mind. The last time I was there inflation was at one thousand percent. Now that's not runaway, that's escaped.

One would think that he would be a most welcome addition as an advisor to the governing body of that huge nation. It's not even a mental stretch to someone with his recent experience. Brazil is larger than the lower forty-eight, has close to the same number of people, and many more economic problems that he could sink his teeth into.

Perhaps we could get the Chairman to take his honeymoon in Brazil. He could go straight to Rio, hang out with the right people, and make subtle, surreptitious suggestions at parties. Who knows what could happen. The wellspring of possibilities just boggle the imagination.

Barbra Alexander is a local mortgage lender. She can be heard every Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. hosting the Money Hot-Line on KSCO 1080 AM. You can reach Barbra directly at (408) 659 - 0682.

Having a thought? Write a letter to the Editor!
THE SUN: 13766 Center Street, Carmel Valley CA 93924
FAX: 659-8260 Email: SUNWEKLY@aol.com

Nightlife

This is your Local Entertainment Centerfold of the Week Pull it out and Keep it Close at Hand

The Imperial Crowns will do their blues thing at Viva's on Friday and at Doc's Nightclub on Saturday.

Around Town

With Matt Heimbold

Are you ready to rumble? Royalty is coming to town by way of LA. Not blue bloods mind you, I'm talkin' about the **Imperial Crowns**. This band is by far my favorite blues outfit playing today. Mighty lofty statement huh? But indulge me by checking them out this Friday at Viva's or Saturday at Doc's Nightclub. They have been called "Sweet n' Cruel Swamp, Stomp, Rock n' Soul Blues". Get to the facts, who are they son? They're vocalist/harmonica frontman Jimmie Woods, guitarist J.J. Holiday, and drummer Billy Sullivan. The live line-up includes bassist Lynne Davis and master congero percussionist Mike Tempo. Woods and Holiday are part of the Los Angeles House Of Blues house band (yup), dubbed Sacred Heart, which often backs up part owner (and more than adequate vocalists/ham) James Belushi. You've heard Jimmie's harmonica on the Springsteen track "Spare Parts", and he has also lent his skills to Etta James, Bruce Hornsby, Gladys Knight, Ivan Neville, The Smithereens, and Cheap Trick to name a few. He is a favored session player for producers such as Don Was, Don Gehman, and Ted Templeman. His vocals are often reminiscent of Howlin' Wolf and he'll exorcise your demons on the track "Praise His Name". But I think he describes himself best on another track off their self entitled CD debut called "Big Boy" - "they didn't have the juice to take the big boy out!" J.J. Holiday is regarded in session musician circles as one of the premier if not best slide guitarists in the business. For you alternacats, Holiday was mentor to a young Beck (Spin magazine's artist of the year) just before his breakthrough album "Mellow Gold". For you classic rockers, he holds session credits with none other than Bob Dylan. He has also played on countless film scores for academy award winning composer David Newman. Mike Tempo is equally revered as Woods and Holiday for his percussion skills. You may recognize him as a member of the Bone Daddy's. Sullivan holds his own on the tubs with any player in the business, and Davis is no slouch on bass. They were recently named by the Music Connection, a highly visible Los Angeles trade magazine, as one of the top unsigned bands in the country. To paraphrase a live performance review in the Music Connection - "The Crowns worked up enough energy to have the audience shouting back at stage. The performance was top notch.

continued on page 8

180
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Thursday
Just for Laughs
COMEDY NIGHT
Friday
NEW!
IMPERIAL CROWNS
Saturday
SPECIAL GUESTS
Sunday
Three Spirits Jam Session
Monday
ORIGINAL SONGWRITERS
SHOWCASE NIGHTS!
Tuesday
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Bands, Billiards,

April	THURSDAY 3	FRIDAY 4	SATURDAY 5	SU 6
180 East Club 372-2244	DJ "Wally" spins 80's hits.	DJ Allan Chase from KDON spins free-style dance music. Ladies get in free all night.	DJ Allan Chase from KDON does top 40	DJ Ch DISC
Bluefin Billiards 375-7000	$2 margarita madness	"Iguana Jive" alternative 9PM-1AM	"The Next Blues Band" blues 9PM-1AM	"The DLI - ½ Pri
Doc's Nightclub 649-4241	"Debbie Daves" - Blind Pig Recording Artist $5 cover	"Ron Thompson & the Resistors"	LA's "Imperial Crowns"	close
McGarret's 646-9244	KWAV Martini Underground Adult Contemporary	KMBY w/ DJ Donna $5	KDON w/ DJ Mike Marquez $6	close
Monterey Billiards 641-0260	"Backyard Blues Band" debut show - 9pm	"Eddie Gutierrez" acoustic 7-9 "Young Presidents" from 9:30-1:30am	Storm Nilson - 13 year old blues guitarist, with Greg Fredricks and Al Santana. Followed by "The Human Doings"	call fo
Planet Gemini 373-1449	Comedy 9 - 10:30 with John Bowman & Carlos Alazroqi $6	Comedy 9 - 10:30 with John Bowman & Carlos Alazroqi followed by music with Foreign Exchange. $6	Comedy 9 - 10:30 with John Bowman & Carlos Alazroqi followed by music with Foreign Exchange. $8	OASI Tropi Air w/
Viva Monterey 646-1415	Just for Laughs Comedy Night	LA's "Imperial Crowns"	Special Guests - call for info.	Three Sessi & Jaz
Whitey's Place 646-8383	Rock & Blues Jam Session featuring Joe Lucido	Funk and Rock with "The Human Doings"	"Unshakable Race" world music	Satell Intera

Musicians Corner - Help us

Musicians seeking gigs, venues seeking

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Around Town

from page 7

It is some of the best music heard in a while." You will certainly see that kind of audience band interaction at Doc's this Saturday. Show time is 9:30. A second show was just added on Friday night at Viva. Woods and Holiday are coming into town ahead of the band to perform their delta magic as a duo. Expect them to be joined by Tom Ayers and other local guests.

Thursday night at Doc's Nightclub see Blind Pig recording artist **Debbie Davies**, yet another hot female blues guitarist to visit the Cannery Row venue. Davies is touring in support of her second offering "Loose Tonight", which follows her 1993 Blind Pig debut "Picture This". Blues revue - "Loose Tonight is a recommended musical indoctrination for those who still believe the blues is both gender and race restricted. If soulful blues and innovative guitar playing are your trip - Loose Tonight better be along for the ride". There is a rare five dollar cover charge, but don't gripe, she's worth every penny. I'm not done with Dino Pulgarin and the gang at Doc's! Friday catch veteran Bay Area multi instrumental bluesman, **Ron Thompson** do his thing. Here's a goodie on Thompson from Guitar Magazine (now your listening) - "a mind boggling talent". He appeared at the first San Francisco Blues Festival in 1973 and has performed six times since. He toured for many years as band leader for boogie king, John Lee Hooker. Thompson has not one but two guitar Bammies (Bay Area Music Awards), in addition to being nominated for a GRAMMY (yes the little megaphone), and can be heard on Chris Isaak's "San Francisco Days". A couple more and I'll move on. He co-wrote "A Thing Called Love" with Wilson Pickett and tours frequently with Mick Fleetwood's Blue Whale, as well as, LA favorites The Blasters. Show time 9:30 no cover.

What's so funny anyway? **Carlos Alazraqui** and **John Bowman** are this Thursday through Saturday at Planet Gemini, your local comedy hot spot. Some of you may remember the Nickelodeon Sunday morning animated show

rds, and Booze

RDAY	SUNDAY 6	MONDAY 7	TUESDAY 8	WEDNESDAY 9
Chase from es top 40	DJ Christopher - DISCO	closed	DJ Chris - Acid Jazz	DJ Greg Dean - Alternative
t Blues Band" 1	"The Jazz Project" DLI - NPGS Night ½ Price Pool w/I.D.	College Night ½ Price Pool w/I.D.	Pint Night $3.50 Keep the Glass	Ladies Night ½ Price Pool
erial Crowns"	closed	KPIG Blues Bait	Reggae with "Tony Miles"	Blues with locals "Cruzin Deuces"
DJ Mike $6	closed	US Manpower Male and Female Burlesque $5	closed	Country Night w/ DJ Johnny Morgan
son - 13 year guitarist, with dricks and Al Followed by han Doings"	call for info	Songwriters Showcase - prizes 8pm	Blues Clinic with "Nickel and a Nail " 9pm	Acoustic harmonies with Greg Fredericks & Al Santana
9 - 10:30 with yman & Carlos ollowed by n Foreign e. $8	OASIS and DJ Tropical 2000 Live On-Air w/KCTY-KRAY $5	Loco Lunes: KDON Latin House Music with DJ Mark Garcia "El Presidente"	closed	closed
uests - call for	Three Spirits Jam Session: Rock, Blues & Jazz Jam at 8PM	Original songwriters showcase	Original songwriters showcase	Club Night featuring "Un'plug'able Race" Win up to $500 cash.
ble Race" sic	Satellite Sports Interactive 6pm	Satellite Sports Interactive 6pm	Robie & Danyel & Acoustic Performances	Un Plugged performances

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Rocko's Modern Life. For those that do, Alazraqui was the voice of Rocko and Spunky. Among his most impressive awards was a first place finish in the 18th Annual San Franciso International Stand-Up Comedy Competition. You may ask, who is Don Bowman and why should I care? Well you may recognize him from TV's "Evening at the Improv" or as "The Doll Killer" on one of the more memorable episodes of Miami Vice (fess up, you know you watched it). "He rattles around the stage like an emotional quick change artist... definitely worth the price of admission..." - New York Magazine. This is definitely one of the most unique double bill comedy tickets to land on The Planet. Show times start at 9:30.

Just when you thought the **Blue Fin** couldn't get any cooler, they've gone and expanded their wine list and menu, go figure. Did you know that Billiards Magazine (I think that's the one) named The Fin as the best new pool hall in the world for 1996? Bravo guys! Manager Carl Gollwitzer reminded me to tell you about their $4/hour, happy hour pool. Friday, from Chico, it's Blue Fin regulars **Iguana Jive** who are making quite a buzz throughout Northern California with their nonstop touring. Saturday catch the **Next Blue Band**. Show times for both nights 9:00 with no cover.

Eddie Guttierez has been showcasing his acoustic guitar chops on a fairly regular basis during the 7-9:00 slot at Monterey Billiards. This Friday is no exception. I haven't caught Eddie's show yet, but I have had the opportunity to hear him Jam with Mike Hintz of Gel and was more than impressed. I'm looking forward to this one. Following Guttierez will be long time Monterey favorites the **Young Presidents** doing their tried and true thing. The opening slot on Saturday will feature 13 year old guitar wiz **Storm Nilson** backed by **Greg Fredericks** on bass and **Al Santana** on drums. These two veterans will provide a solid backbone for the kid to do his thang. (Yes I said 13, and no I haven't seen it for myself, and yes this Curious George ain't missing this one.). Out.

PLANET GEMINI

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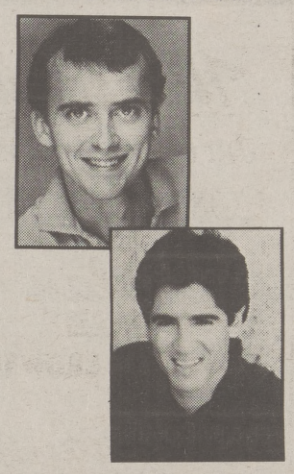
with JOHN BOWMAN



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Sunday 6th
SORRY, CLOSED

Monday 7th
K-PIG
BLUES BAIT

Tuesday 8th
UP BEAT REGGAE with
TONY MILES

Wednesday 9th
POWER RYTHYM n'BLUES with locals
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Cannery Row
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What's Going On

BLUES MUSIC NEWS

The Blues Bus

By Rand Elliot Rueter

Family Legacy

When your father, or mother, or sister, or brother is a legendary figure, what do you do? A lot of people go into a different line of work to avoid competition or being overshadowed. Sometimes the legend is the only one with the particular gift and it's easier to excel elsewhere. But if your big brother was a rock legend and you want to play music, maybe you just keep trying until you excel too.

Mario Ramirez sings and plays harmonica with the local **Backyard Blues Band**. They are probably one of the best unsigned bands in California. They have been together for a long time. They play with fire and humor. They have been deserving of a record deal for the last two or three years.

Unfortunately, returns (the number of records sent back to labels from distributors) are now in the range of 40% to 50%. This means that record companies are not going to spend money on "new" artists. This means that the music business will focus on what is known to sell and copies of what is known to sell and copies of copies until the market shrinks back to a profitable size. This means a saturation of the Same Old Stuff until there is a bottom line again. This means no record deals.

So, bands are getting into self production. Locally, John "Broadway" Tucker, Red Beans and Rice, Alligator, Sista Monica, and a lot of other potentially signable acts have produced their own CD's.

Mario and the band are finishing theirs at Music Arts Recording Studio (MARS). I got some rushes last week and the album is going to be very good, potentially the best local album yet. Backyard guitarist Eric Panganiban and bassist Brandon Morales came into the KPIG studio and did a live segment featuring material from the album. Mario is hopefully about to get some of the recognition that he deserves.

He has persevered and I think that his brother would be proud of him. His big brother, Ritchie "Valens" died in a plane crash back in 1959, along with Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper.

Rand Elliot Rueter hosts "The Blues Bus" on KPIG, 107.5 FM and is currently the lead singer/guitarist for Blues Bait and Nickel and a Nail.

LOCAL SCENE

What's Hot

By Sally Russell

Flying Fish!

Remember the last time you went out to eat and you racked your brain thinking of someplace wonderful, low key, and simple? A zillion of the common local restaurants came to mind, but you craved something unusual. Well, if you didn't come up with something in the midst of your Epicurean quest, you should try the **Flying Fish** restaurant in Carmel.

The Flying Fish restaurant is a favorite secret amongst the locals. Set in the basement level of the Carmel Plaza, you may walk right by it and never even notice. When you fly into "The Fish" you enter a world of Japanese comfort. Owners Kenny and Tina Fukomoto have created a wonderful ambiance with redwood framework, cozy cushions, and subdued lighting. It's a place to relax and have a style of food that you probably wouldn't prepare for yourself at home. The specialty is obviously fresh fish, and the menu is a creative combination of East meets West. You might try an appetizer of Tuna Sashimi, Crispy Spring Rolls, or my favorite Shrimp Curry Soup, which is slightly spicy but absolutely delicious.

Your entree decision may not be as simple for there are many different flavors to choose from. Two of my most favorite dishes are the Almond Seabass and the Rare Peppered Ahi Tuna. It's always a tough call. I love the Almond Seabass because it has wonderful textures. The seabass is encrusted with thinly sliced almonds, pan fried, and then draped over garlic mashed potatoes with a stir fry of rock shrimp and cabbage around the outside. Yikes! The Rare Peppered Ahi is the best preparation of tuna that I have ever experienced. The tuna is rolled in fresh ground pepper on one side and then seared on the grill. It is then sliced into medallions and fanned out around angel hair pasta with an outrageous soy wasabe sauce. I guarantee that you will not be the same after you try this dish.

If you happen to save room for dessert, I strongly recommend the Creme Brulee, Warm Banana Sundae, or the homemade trio of sorbets.

I must say that all of the best elements of a restaurant come together at the Flying Fish. Great atmosphere, excellent food, and professional yet friendly service create a truly wonderful dining experience. I hope that I have at least peaked your curiosity if you are not already a regular. My only suggestion is that you make a reservation first. See you there!

I welcome comments and tips on what you think is hip or exceptional. Please contact me c/o What's Hot; Sally Russell; 600 E. Franklin #1; Monterey, California 93940.

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CALENDAR

MORE MUSIC

"Gennady" dinner piano music is featured at **Wills Fargo** restaurant in Carmel Valley every Saturday from 8-10pm. For more information call 659-2774.

The **Bay Club** at the Inn at Spanish Bay every Tue., Wed, Thu., Sun. Harpist **Juli Alexander** 7-10:30pm. Every Fri. and Sat., guitarist **Robert McNamera.**

April 12, The Big Sur Natives celebrate The Mother at the Big Sur River Inn. Show starts at 9:30, dancing until midnight. For more information call 667-2700.

EVENTS

April 5

Comet Hale-Bopp Potluck Party. 5:30 pm at the Carmel Valley Community Center at 25 Ford Road. Talk by MIRA astronomer Dr. Whitney Shane and comet viewing.

April 6

Run for the Wolves III, a Harley-Davidson motorcycle run to **Baja Cantina** & Corral in Carmel. The event will feature **The Broadway Blues Band,** a slow race, a ride-in bike show, Native American Vendors, and a silent auction. Event begins at 11 am. For more information call 655-1644.

April 6

The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and Friends of the Sea Otter present **Sea Otters: A Coastal Legacy.** Karin-Strasser Kauffman will speak on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary - Issues and Threats. 2pm at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, admission is free. For more information call 648-3116.

April 11-13

Pacific Grove's 40th annual **Good Old Days** celebration; 10am - 5pm daily. The festival will Include a craft show, golf tournament, quilt show, pancake breakfast, and parade. For more information call 373-3304.

April 16

Dinner at the Covey Restaurant, 6:30pm, featuring **River Ranch Winery**. Wine and dinner, $55. For more information or reservations call 624-1581.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Still Life Studios Workshop, April 5, 12, and 19. Beginners class in oil painting to explore self expression; $150 per person. Three Saturdays from 10am - 2pm. For more information call 659-9339.

Attention Artists: The Carmel Performing Arts Festival is holding a contest for their event poster. Submissions of any media, in color, including photography, will be considered. The theme should revolve around the performing arts including music, dance, theater, and poetry readings. The contest will be juried by Richard Gadd, Dennis High and Joe Tanis. Work should be submitted to The Carmel Arts Festival c/o The Carmel Mailbox, 8th Ave. between San Carlos and Dolores Street, Carmel CA 93923, the deadline is April 10, 1997. For more information call 647-0228.

Volunteers Needed: The **SPCA** is seeking volunteers for its Wildlife Center to rehabilitate injured birds. A baby bird feeder orientation will I be held on April 5 at the SPCA from 10am - 1pm. For more information call 373-2631 ext. 223.

WHAT'S HOT: COSTA RICA

Costa Rica's West Coast - Discovered, Explored and Savored

By Tom Wilmer

"The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see." - Gilbert K. Chesterton

DRAKES BAY, Costa Rica—To say that we're having a good time would be a huge understatement. Beth has been wearing a non-stop grin since we cleared customs four days ago.

Beth is a high school science teacher so this place is a true Garden of Eden for her. Yesterday, we were informed that we might encounter some white faced Capuchin monkeys while hiking through the Curu Biological Preserve on Curu Island. Well we did, and for Beth the experience is one she'll cherish for years to come. You see, the little critters took a real liking to her. I think she's cute and the monkeys agreed, as one assumed a pose of adoration on Beth's lap while a compatriot planted itself on Beth's head where it proceeded to groom her hair and inspect her scalp for lice.

This was Beth's first trip to Costa Rica, so she was especially awestruck. This being a reprise visit to paradise for me, I knew what to expect and so I had to experience through her, those precious moments of discovery and awe that only come when experiencing something for the first time.

Our trip to Costa Rica was primarily to explore the jungles and national parks along the Pacific coast. The journey was officially classified as a nautical cruise, but when people ask me about the Costa Rican based cruise line, Temptress Explorations, I usually reply, like a riddle, "It's the only cruise I know of that's not really a cruise. The new, (1995) 100 passenger ship travels at night and, usually before the first twinkling of daylight, the ship sets anchor for the day. After an early morning breakfast the first Zodiacs head for shore. You see, since most people wish to see the forest animals doing their thing, treks must commence shortly after day break as that's when the jungle animals are busiest.

Once the sun is high in the sky and the temperature begins to rise, most of the animals kick back and just hang out until late in late afternoon or the following morning. For example, during the warmest days of the year, howler monkeys will complete their day's feeding and foraging before nine in the morning.

This is supposed to be the rainy season (Costa Rican tourism folks prefer that journalists call it the "green season"), but so far my last trip here, during the height of the dry season, was much wetter than it's been this time during the height of the wet season, or as a friend of mine snippily calls it the "muddy season".

One of the most endearing aspects of this non-cruise cruise has been some of our fellow shipmates, specifically of the teenage variety. Actually the kids on board range in age from early elementary school to seniors in high school, but they all have behaved so admirably that I think of them all as teenagers. I was surprised to discover that the teenagers were probably more enthused about the opportunities to snorkel, dive, water ski and kayak than they were to watch the antics of the monkeys and the three toed sloths.

It was Christopher Columbus who dubbed this magnificent land Costa Rica or "Rich Coast". His descriptor was spot on for more than one reason. First, because the natural beauty of this country is just about as rich as it gets on planet earth and second because the country has produced some nuggets of pure rich gold, one specimen weighed in at over seven pounds. The gold found in Costa Rica partly explains why the Spanish arrived not too long after Columbus and the land became another of their colonial holdings in a realm they dubbed "The Spanish Main".

Today, most people come to Costa Rica to enjoy the peaceful land and the friendly people. The Costa Ricans refer to themselves as "ticos" and the gracious friendly attitude that they display is the stuff of legend. Before my first trip to Costa Rica, friends in California who had previously lived or spent time in the country all concurred that the Ticos were among the friendliest people that they had encountered anywhere. Now I know what they were talking about and they are absolutely correct in their assessment. And believe me, it makes traveling around down here a real pleasure. One looks forward to their next encounter with a local, as it is bound to be a positive and joyful experience. And there are many, many places in the world where the probability of a positive interaction with a local would be very low. Not down here. Even in the capital city of San Jose, the vast majority of citizens are friendly and outgoing.

Although, over the past few years things have changed a bit. In Costa Rica, as in most Western countries, unemployment is up and downsizing is in. And just as we have our problems with illegal immigrants coming across the border from Mexico, the Costa Ricans have a similar situation with their neighbor to the north, Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan economy has been bleak for a long time, the people have suffered through wars and privations.

So the Nicaraguans come south to Costa Rica in hopes of a better life, unfortunately, many of them do not find long term employment. Because of the hardships that they have endured in their homeland for so long, some resort to stealing and robbing, skills of survival learned in a tough country under tough conditions.

You'll likely hear a Costa Rican lament about the increase in crime and the decrease in personal safety due to the influx of illegal immigrants from the north. Some of it might be attributable to scape-goatism but I sensed that the complaints were generally valid. You have to remember to keep things in perspective though. San Jose, Costa Rica surely has its problems, but I feel just as safe, if not more so than in San Jose, California.

For further information about Temptress Cruises in Costa Rica and Belize contact your local travel professional or write Temptress Cruises, 1600 NW LeJeune Road, Suite 301, Miami, FL 33126, call (305) 871-2657, or toll-free (800) 336-8423. For additional information about Costa Rica, contact your local travel professional or the Costa Rica National Tourist Bureau, 1101 Brickell Avenue, B.I.V. Tower, Suite 801, Miami, FL 33131, call (305) 358-2150, toll -free in the US. (800) 327-7033.

—Travel Editor, Tom Wilmer is also the author of California Coast Getaways, White Cloud Press and travel correspondent for NPR affiliate KCBX.

A luxurious place to stay in San Jose, Costa Rica

A friend of mine who's lived in Costa Rica for the past four years told me, "San Jose is a nice enough city, but since there is such a dearth of nice places to stay, I usually head for the countryside the same day that I fly in."

"Oh really?", I responded, "Have you ever stayed at the Grano de Oro?" to which she responded, "Why no. I've never heard of the place."

It was by mere happenstance that I discovered the Hotel Grano de Oro. Situated on a quiet side street in downtown San Jose, this charming hostelry, a one-time private mansion, is within walking distance of the city center, museums, parks and shops. Owned and operated by a most gracious couple, ex-patriot Canadians, Eldon & lori Cooke, the Grano de Oro radiates the ingratiating sense of staying at friends' opulent home rather than an inn or boutique hotel.

The reasons why are quite simple really; there's the fact that the inn was originally built as a Colonial-style family residence, but the essential qualities have everything to do with the outstanding staff and the owners/innkeepers. Most memorable is the staff's unobtrusive friendliness and ready concern for your needs. On numerous occasions I observed the staff going way beyond the expected bounds when it came to assisting guests with special needs and requests.

If you'll notice, I've barely touched on the architecture, cuisine, or amenity details of this elegant inn. Reason why? because the truly critical aspects that determines whether your stay at any inn or resort (the stuff of fond memories) has everything to do with the human element and much less to do with the plushness of the pillows or the tenderness of the rib-eye steak. Fortunately, the cuisine served in the on-site dining room is rated among the best in the City (and this includes stand-alone eateries). Additionally, the Cooks spent an extraordinary amount of their renovation investment on the purchase of upscale soft goods, interior design and decor and high-quality fixtures and tile in the baths. *35 rooms and suites with Jacuzzi tubs, $72- $150., secluded garden, on-site gourmet restaurant. Write: Hotel Grano de Oro, SJO 36, P.O. Box 05216, Miami FL 33102-5216, telephone 506-255-3322 FAX 506-221-2782, E-mail: granoro@sol.racsa.co.cr - Tom Wilmer*

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ENVIRONMENT

Your World and Mine

By Araby Colton

Never Pry

"Where the apple reddens never pry," wrote Robert Browning in Parting at Morning. Ah, but we must. We do.

We learned, in 1973, that Alar and its byproduct UDMH which is sprayed on at least half the apples in the U.S., causes cancer in mice and hamsters. (Alar is a growth-regulating hormone that makes apples redder, holds them on the trees longer, and increases profits for apple-growing corporations.)

"Alar is completely safe, the people are hysterical. Housewives should stay in their place - Alar is a miracle." - Science Magazine

In February 1989, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) collaborated with CBS to produce a show publicizing the facts about Alar, we staged the Alar Rebellion. We just stopped buying apples. Apple sales dropped by 50-60%. (Wonderful what you can accomplish by just not buying something.)

Actually the question was simple: Should the nation's children (and their parents) be placed in harm's way just to make the apple business a bit more profitable for the apple-growing corporations?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) then announced that it was "accelerating the process that will propose cancellation of the food uses" of Alar, a step that could easily become a decade-long court battle, hardly a vigorous protection of the public health.

In the summer of 1989 Uniroyal, facing a near boycott of apples and wanting to brighten up its public image as baby-poisoners, decided to take Alar off the market in the U.S. Of course it had no qualms about the babies in the seventy-one foreign countries in which it developed markets for Alar.

And we say to ourselves, what kind of monsters are these, selling their stuff that poisons people to other countries just to make money?

But how naive can you get? Listen to Jerry Mandar, in The Case Against the Global Economy :_"The most basic rule of corporate operation is that it must show a profit over time. Among the publicly held companies there is a second basic rule: It must expand and grow, since growth is the standard by which the stock market judges a company. All other values are secondary: the welfare of the community, the happiness of workers, the health of the planet, and even the general prosperity.

"So human beings within the corporate structure, whatever their personal morals and feelings, are prevented from operating on their own standards. Like the assembly-line workers who must operate at the speed of the machine, corporate employees are strapped onto the apparatus of the corporation and forced to operate by its rules."

So, the corporate world lost no time in unleashing a full scale attack on the NRDC and CBS, and on the "hysterical" public which was refusing to buy apples.

They even got Walter Cronkite, that prestigious news "personality", to narrate a TV documentary, Big Fears, Little Risks, featuring only chemical industry supporters.

Science magazine published an article, quoting so-called scientists, "Alar is completely safe, the people are hysterical. Housewives should stay in their place - Alar is a miracle."

But we're not staying in our place. (Our place is right out there with the rest of humanity.) The Alar rebellion helped us realize that corporate chemicals of all kinds are making us and our children sick, and the government is frequently not helping.

We're realizing that huge corporations, unconcerned for our welfare, are the public menace. If we, as a species, are to survive we must find a way to rein them in.

Come See the Comet!

MONTEREY INSTITUTE for RESEARCH in ASTRONOMY
MIRA

The Friends of MIRA present our

Comet Hale-Bopp Potluck Party

Saturday, April 5, 1997,
5:30 p.m. at the
Carmel Valley Community Center
25 Ford Rd., Carmel Valley

Comet Hale-Bopp will be brightest in our evening skies in early April. Join us for a potluck supper, a short talk about the comet by MIRA astronomer Dr. Whitney Shane, and, of course, a good long look at our tailed solar system visitor. Amateur astronomers will be offering a close-up look at the comet through telescopes and binoculars.

Bring the family, bring some friends, and bring a dish to share!

LIFE WITH HIV: A CONTINUING STORY

"BOBBY"

I knew that when my HIV test results came back positive that I was not going to the doctor to have my T-cells counted, viral load checked, or begin medication right away. This is something I did not decide immediately, but I intuitively knew that this was how I was most comfortable. I can understand my body and listen to its needs without the influence of tests and medications to weigh or overpower my ability to make clear decisions. When I heard my test results I did not feel normal or feel like myself and I still don't. I am constantly working through coping with, understanding, and letting go of the inconclusive concepts of HIV and AIDS as a disease.

...I have not changed who I am, what I look like, or what I want to become just because I am HIV positive.

I wrote in a past column that there is something symbolic about the clothes I was wearing when I got tested for HIV. They were the same clothes I was wearing two weeks later when I heard my test results. I believe now that those same clothes represent me as a person and that I have not changed who I am, what I look like, or what I want to become just because I am HIV positive. I remember feeling and looking healthy prior to the test and the challenge is for me to continue trusting myself and knowing that I am still healthy.

It does not make sense to take drugs I have not used or needed so far. It is drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes that I need to stop. I need to give more attention to my diet and improve my eating habits. I need to make sure that I get the right kinds of exercise and rest. I need to learn how to eliminate unnecessary stress and manage the stresses in my daily life. I need quiet time and time away from my job, home, and people so I can feel peace. AIDS is an immune deficiency and these are some of the things that I can do to build my immune system. These are the things that came to mind before I ever thought of going to a doctor.

Four years ago I developed a condition where small patches of skin on the lower half of my body broke out into blistering and weeping rashes. I had never seen irritated skin like this before. In short, it was painful and the condition was frustrating. The irritation persisted so my only choice was to eventually see a doctor. I saw several doctors and all gave me cortisone shots and antibiotics to relieve the symptoms in hopes that the rash would not return. None could give me an answer as to why my skin was acting or reacting in the form of a rash.

My liver's metabolic activity had been slowed down to where it did not emulsify lipids, carbohydrates, and proteins properly. Whatever it was that prompted my liver to warn me, had done so through weakening my immune system and signaling me via the skin. The condition is eczema and it is common among infants where their immune systems are not strong yet. I had been worried and embarrassed. I had felt pain and frustration. I was so uncomfortable and the doctors did not help. In fact they exacerbated the condition with hormones and antibiotics that are powerful in weakening the immune system. I don't say it was deliberate, but it was foolish of me to rely on the doctors. When I began researching the symptoms myself, I learned how to treat and prevent those rashes from reoccurring.

I have lost confidence in the field of Western medicine through my experiences. That confidence has shifted and I have gained it in myself. My experience with eczema does not compare with HIV and AIDS, but it demonstrates the way in which Western doctors approach illness. So far, it has not worked for me. From my research, it is not clear that HIV is a precursor of AIDS or that people with AIDS have HIV.

Take care - Bobby

Bobby recently tested HIV positive. This column is Bobby's ongoing story about life with HIV.

SPORTS

Sports Raw

Mike Hohler

Baseball Picks

Sorry A's fans (if there are any of you out there), but I am going to have to limit my analysis of Oakland so that I can fit in my predictions for the entire league.

Without a doubt, the biggest acquisition for the A's in the off-season had to be Jose Canseco. The man who at times has been known more for his screw-ups both off and on the field (e.g. being caught speeding well over 100 mph and the infamous fly ball that bounced off of his head and went over the fence for a home run) has returned to where he began his career in 1985. Since playing on the A's, Canseco also made stops in Texas with the Rangers and in Boston. Yet his performance has never been the same since leaving the Bay area. Until Barry Bonds did it last year, Canseco was the only major league player to ever hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases in a single season. His speed today is not as good but his bat is still deadly. I went to an A's/Red Sox game last season and when Canseco stepped to the plate during batting practice, everyone in the ballpark took notice. Jose hit some long home runs.

Oakland's biggest loss in the off-season was

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Sports Raw

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catcher Terry Steinbach. But Oakland should still have the most powerful 3-4-5 men in baseball with Mark McGwire, who could break the single season home run record if he can stay healthy, Canseco, and the explosive Geronimo Berroa.

Just like the Giants though, the A's have no pitching and will not be successful unless they get some solid starters.

Call your bookies, here's my official predictions for the 1997 major league season: American League East- 1. New York, 2. Baltimore, 3. Toronto, 4. Boston, 5. Detroit. A.L. Central -1. Cleveland, 2. Chicago, 3. Minnesota, 4. Milwaukee, 5. Kansas City. A.L. West -1. Seattle, 2. Oakland, 3. Texas, 4. Anaheim. Possible surprise team - Oakland.

Watch out for the A's. Like I said, if Oakland's lineup can stay healthy, they are going to score a lot of runs and win a lot of games by scores of 13 -11. A.L. Wild Card: Chicago. A.L. Champion: Seattle. Seattle's line-up is impressive from top to bottom. If Randy Johnson avoids injury, he should win the Cy Young Award.

National League East: 1. Atlanta, 2. Florida, 3. New York, 4. Montreal, 5. Philadelphia. N.L. Central- 1. St. Louis, 2. Cincinnati, 3. Chicago, 4. Houston, 5. Pittsburgh. N.L. West: 1. Los Angeles, 2. San Diego, 3. Colorado, 4. San Francisco. Possibly surprise Team - Florida. The Marlins have had an amazing pre-season (24-5 when I wrote this) and new manager Jim Leyland has the team pointed in the right direction. With a little luck, this team could finally end Atlanta's reign and win the East. N.L. Wild-Card: Cincinnati. N.L. Champion: Los Angeles. This team will finally gel and should have no trouble winning the West. World Champion: Los Angeles. One of my least favorites, but this team is awesome and will bring the championship back to California. Look for the Dodgers to beat Seattle in the West Coast World Series in five games.

Remember to send your comments and suggestions to BgDaDkool@aol.com.

THE LAW

The Legal Corner

By Barry Harrow

Mechanics' Lien

Question: I hired a contractor to do some work on my house. I think he did a bad job, so I haven't paid him the whole price. He tells me he is going to put a mechanics' lien on my house. What is a mechanics' lien and how would it affect me?

Answer: There is a principal of fairness running through the law. Although it is sometimes obscured by the procedural quagmire that can exist in the course of enforcing legal rights, the principal is there. That principal gave birth to the public policy that if a person's property is improved by someone else, it would be unjust for the property owner to benefit at the expense of the one improving the property. That public policy is found in the California Constitution, which provides that all classes of mechanics, materialmen, artisans, and laborers are entitled to a lien on the property which benefited from their labor or materials, that lien being called a mechanics' lien.

The mechanics' lien law is found in the Civil Code and is supplemented by case law which interprets how the code should be applied under various circumstances. Basically speaking, it provides that specified classes of people are entitled to a lien for a "work of improvement" to which they contribute labor or materials. It is a right which exists in addition to the right to sue for a breach of contract. A work of improvement includes many things, but can generally be described as any work which significantly changes the land or the building upon it.

If there is a contract for a work of improvement and the contract is breached by the property owner, liability for the breach would normally be found against the defendant (whether an individual, partnership or corporation). The mechanics' lien law creates a

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River Ramblings

By Joseph Hertlein

Last week in the Wall Street Journal, there was an article about the Ritz Hotel in Paris. Have you ever wanted to stay at the Ritz? Do you like traveling to far away places and having the feeling that you are in paradise, removed from the hub-bub of day to day hassles?

I strongly recommend you don't go to the Ritz. Instead, stay at the Carmel Valley Ranch Resort. Many of us pass it daily on our way up and down Carmel Valley Road. Its beautiful golf course is a landmark on the hills to the South as you make the big curve just East of Mid Valley.

To get there, you turn at Robinson Canyon Road and enter at the gate house with its beautiful flowers. You drive along the 1st fairway on your right and the 4th and 9th fairways on your left. You catch a view of the numerous ponds with their resident ducks and geese. At the appropriate times of the year they are joined by their migrating cousins.

As you head up the hill towards the Resort you pass the 10th fairway on your right, then the 14th on your left. Even if you do not play this Peter Dye Championship course, it is an absolute treat to walk, along with the friendly deer. The course has some of the most challenging and exciting holes to be found anywhere on the Monterey Peninsula, ranked by Golf Magazine as a "must play." Pebble Beach courses may have the ocean crashing alongside a few fairways, but for panoramic views of the Valley's oak covered hills, nothing can compare to the Carmel Valley Ranch Resort.

Now I need to be fair and admit that I have not stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Paris but I have stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Chicago, and it was overpriced for what I got. Due to circumstances for which my wife and I will always be most grateful, we had a chance to spend a night at the Carmel Valley Ranch in January. It was a memorable stay.

We were so close to home, yet felt like we were in another world. The credit for that feeling belongs to the outstanding staff who expertly cater to each guest but do not disturb your privacy. What particularly impressed us was the courtesy and helpfulness of the staff. If asked a question, they more than just answered. They were gracious with their time, smiles and knowledgeable response. The staff at the Ranch really know how to make every guest feel like Royalty.

At Carmel Valley Ranch you get a large 800 square foot suite with cathedral ceilings and skylights. Rooms are light and airy. Parking lots are screened from view. Out the back full-width patio door, there is an oversize private deck offering a breathtaking view of the Carmel Valley. The sense of security and serenity comes from the inspiring vistas of the valley and the sound proof walls between units. Beautiful art work hang on the walls and each of the one hundred suites has a fireplace that gives you a cozy and secure feeling.

At the Ranch, room service can be rolled into your suite and set up on a sturdy oak table in a bay window alcove. Morning light shines through the louvered shutters that offer privacy from anyone passing by.

All of the ambiance, service and attention to detail that you expect, you will get during your stay at the Ranch; and at a much more affordable cost than the outlandish prices of the Ritz. There a continental breakfast for two, juice, coffee and croissants, costs $85.00 That's crazy. For less than that, at the Ranch two can have a delicious dinner and drinks in the Oaks dinning room, one of the very best restaurants in the County.

In a request for comments from guests, Vice President & General Manager Tony Dawson writes: "We are constantly striving to provide each guest with a memorable experience by offering the finest resort facilities and service. 'Creating Memories' for our guests is our mission." At the Carmel Valley Ranch, the setting, the views, and each of the staff we encountered certainly lived up to accomplishing that mission. Our stay there will be a treasured memory.

I would recommend that for anyone wanting a special memory, reserve yourselves a stay at the Carmel Valley Ranch. It is not just for people from out of town or the avid golfer. With swimming, tennis, jacuzzis and delightful walks, it is the greatest getaway, and only a short drive away.

The Carmel Valley Ranch Resort is one of three properties owned and operated by Carefree Resorts. The other two are The Boulders in Carefree, Arizona and The Peaks At Telluride, Colorado. If these are half as good as the Carmel Valley Ranch, they too are outstanding.

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By the time this paper comes out, some people may think that the baseball season has officially started. The real season, however, The Carmel Valley Little League, does not officially start until Saturday, April 12th. Look for next weeks edition of The Sun to get all the information on opening day ceremonies.

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Legal Corner

from page 13

mechanism to collect on the judgment because the recording of a mechanics' lien creates an encumbrance against the real property itself, similar to a mortgage or deed of trust.

The lien applies to the owner's property so that the person who provided the services which improved the property has a way to collect on the judgment that might be obtained later. If a lawsuit to enforce the lien is not filed within 90 days of the recording of the lien, the lien expires.

In some cases, it is necessary to serve a preliminary or "pre-lien" notice on the owner of the property and certain other designated persons (depending on the specific situation) in order for a mechanics' lien to later be valid. In other cases, it is not necessary to serve the pre-lien notice before recording the lien.

The lien itself, when recorded, does not create any personal liability against the owner, although it does create a cloud on title. There is a procedure to remove that cloud, which involves obtaining a bond. In any event, however, any liability would only come from the underlying contract obligation and whether it was breached. In other words, it is necessary to determine if there has been a breach of contract by the contractor (bad work) or by the owner (not paying).

Disputes like that can be resolved in a variety of ways, including mediation, arbitration, or by litigation in the Courts. In the case of arbitration or litigation, an independent third party (Arbitrator or Judge, for example) will have to decide, based on the evidence, if a breach has occurred and, if so, by who.

Unless the contractor is found to be entitled to a judgment to collect money, the mechanics' lien would not continue to be a cloud on title. If the contractor is found to be entitled to a judgment, the judgment will likely contain the right to have a forced sale of the property (foreclosure of the lien), from which the obligation to the contractor would be paid.

The Legal Corner is a public service designed to provide information on general questions regarding civil (non-criminal) legal issues. It should not be construed as legal advice. For specific legal advice, please consult your attorney.

Please submit your questions for consideration to The Legal Corner, c/o Barry Harrow, P.O. Drawer 226, Carmel Valley, CA 93924.

Sheriff's Log

March 25
Carmel Valley
Two persons got into an argument in front of Ringer's General Store. The female believed the male stole her dog. The man punched the woman in the jaw once. The argument was over a missing rottweiller named "Bo".

March 26, 1997
Carmel Valley
Man reported an unknown person entered his house trailer and stole several books of matches and a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver with an unknown serial number.

A husband of a former employee of Baja Cantina who was recently terminated due to a current criminal investigation, threatened to kill the reporting person and staff members at the restaurant.

A nineteen year old girl was bitten by a dog, she did not seek medical aid.

Carmel
After locating a runaway juvenile at the Carmel Rancho Shopping center, it was discovered that the juvenile had discarded a wallet containing a large amount of cash. The juvenile said he obtained the money from selling marijuana to others.

March 27
Pebble Beach
Local resident reported someone pounding on her door and ringing the doorbell at 2030 hours. Unknown person left the area after approximately five minutes.

Carmel
A man was arrested by store security at Longs Drug store for shoplifting a pair of Polaroid sunglasses and a bottle of tequila, he was later cited for same.

Monastery Beach
A vehicle check was made on a car parked at the Bay School. A warrant check on the passenger revealed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of warrants for his arrest from Burbank. When police tried to take him into custody, man cursed and told police to shoot him. The man was pepper sprayed and taken into custody.

Big Sur
A man slipped and fell tearing ligaments in his right knee hiking in Los Padres Forest. He was taken to a remote helo pad and lifted aboard a Navy helicopter and transported to Monterey airport. The man's hiking partner was suffering from asthma and forgot to bring her medicine.

March 28
Carmel
A person reported someone had made a five inch scratch on her passenger door as it was parked at the Hacienda Carmel

Carmel Valley
Man reports receiving a check back from his bank indicating a forgery had taken place on his account. Victim will call the bank when the original check arrives from the bank.

A woman reported seeing an unknown male subject dressed in dark clothing and carrying a flashlight. The unknown subject walked away when outdoor lights were put on.

During a routine traffic stop, a man was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Classified

Unsung Heroes

Good Samaritans Are Still Out There

Terry Dombroski

Next time you see a Little League team or a Cub Scout troop hard at play, think of Terry Dombroski. He has devoted himself to these activities since moving to Carmel Valley 18 years ago. As a Little League Coach for 4 years, Cub Master for the same number of years, as well as Den Leader for 5 years, he has been involved in everything from Roller Hockey to Soccer not to mention his passion for trains, toy and otherwise, expect to see Terry out there with one of his 4 sons or one of yours or your neighbors. In addition, Terry and his wife Bonnie have been Foster Parents to several children throughout the years. That's the stuff of an Unsung Hero in our book. What do you think?

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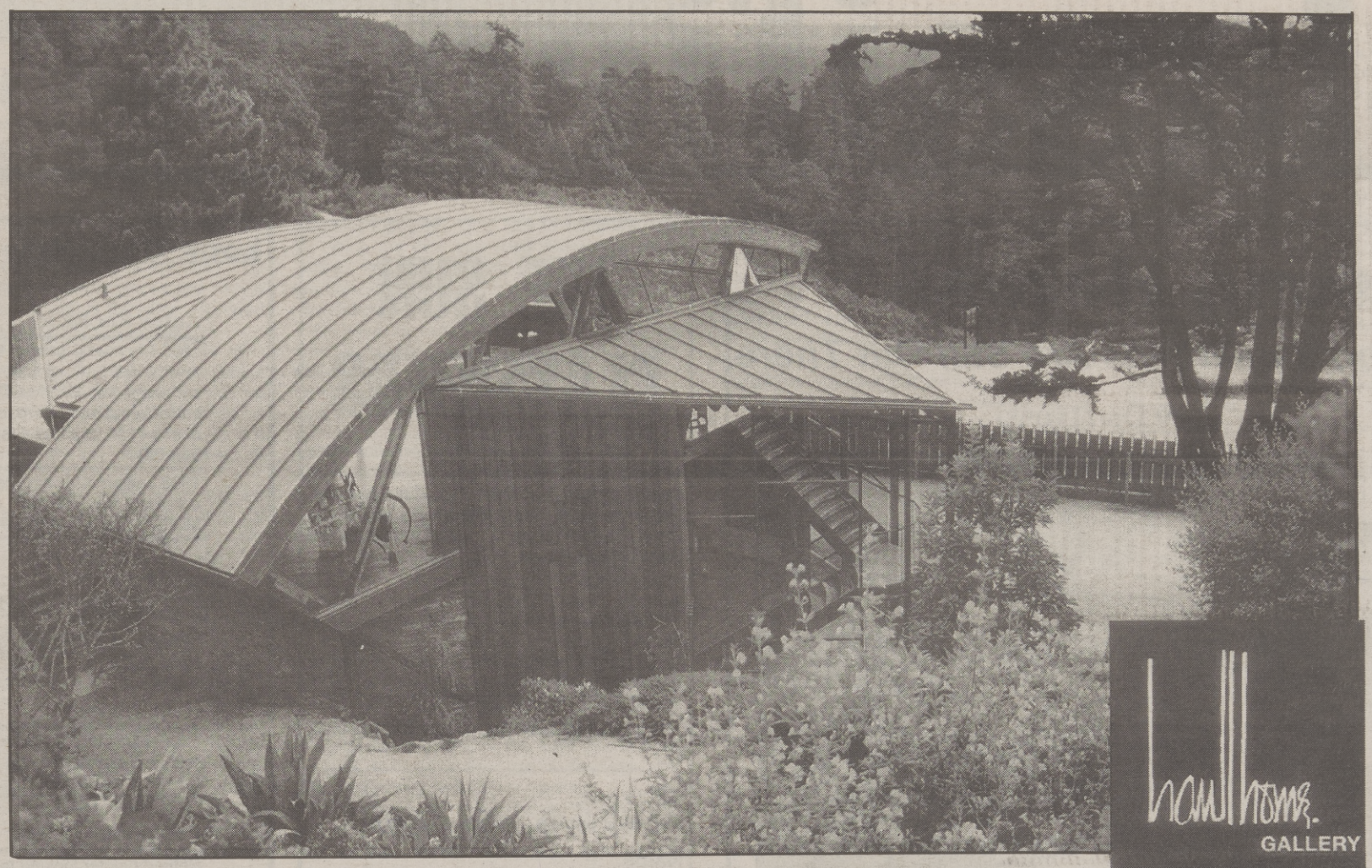

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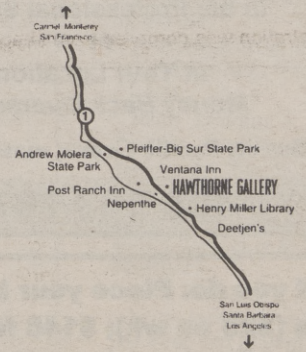

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